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SRI A. GOVINDASAMY NAYAGAR:—" May I know, Sir, whether the number of members will be increased as there is increase in the number of voters?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—" According to the increase in population, the number of wards also is increased."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI:—" Does the Hon. Minister know, Sir, that when consultations were made with the municipalities, there were certain vested interests and that the delimitation of constituencies has now to be done with reference to the Representation of the People Act?"

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI:—" The suggestions and representations from the municipalities are properly examined by the Government before delimitation is done."

Protection of forests in Udayarpalayam estate.

* 38 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the dates when the forests which were under the control of the zamindars in Udayarpalayam taluk were taken over by the Government on the abolition of the zamins;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that a portion of the forest area has been converted into cultivable waste; and

(*c*) what steps have the Government taken to prevent the forests from depletion?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" (*a*) The Udayarpalayam estate was taken over under the Abolition Act on 3rd January 1951. The forests in the estate were also taken over with it on the same date.

" (*b*) No such report has reached the Government.

" (*c*) The Government have sanctioned the employment of certain staff for the protection of these forests."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—" May I know, Sir, after the forests are taken over by the Government, whether the peasants there are enjoying the same rights as they used to enjoy under the zamindars?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" Probably they may be enjoying better rights."

SRI G. LATCHANNA:—" Has any representation been made to the Government about the wrongful utilization of the forests which have been taken over by the Government from the recently acquired estates?" 8-45 a.m.

MR. SPEAKER:—" I think the hon. Member may put a separate question."

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Sri P. VENKATESWARLU :—" My question was not properly answered. The Hon. Minister was pleased to say that the peasants in the estates might be enjoying better rights. I want a definite answer, Sir, whether the peasants are enjoying better rights than what they were previously accustomed to have? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I have no definite information to give, Sir. But from the time the estates have been taken over by Government the presumption should be that the peasants are enjoying better rights."

Sri P. B. K. RAJACHIDAMBARAM :—" May I know whether the forests are under the control of the Forest Officers or the Forest Panchayats? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I think they are under the control of the Forest Department."

Sri T. VISWANATHAM :—" I want to know whether the ryots are enjoying the same grazing facilities for their cattle which they had prior to the taking over of the zamindari estates by the Government."

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Grazing is one of the amenities which are included in the forest facilities given to the ryots."

Sri K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" Have the Government received any complaints that the forests are being depleted? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" No such complaint has been received."

Sri P. VENKATESWARLU :—" The Hon. Minister has told us that the ryots are enjoying grazing facilities. Will the Hon. Minister give a definite assurance that at least hereafter the peasants will be given all those facilities which they were enjoying before? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I shall certainly look into any specific case which the hon. Member may be pleased to bring to my notice."

Sri M. JAGANNATHAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether it is the policy of the Government after the abolition of the zamins, to take over the forests in every Zamindari estate, wherever such forests are in existence, and to convert them into arable lands? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Just as ' man ' includes ' woman,' estates include forests."

Sri P. B. K. RAJACHIDAMBARAM :—" Is it not a fact that the District Forest Officer has submitted a report that the forests included in the estates taken over are very bad? "

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I want notice, Sir."